

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14972 161519Z

66

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01

/147 W

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R 161510Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8084

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

RUDTLNMEMBASSY DUBLIN 0554

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF

SUBJECT: EC-9 COMMUNIQUE ON MID-EAST

REF: BONN 14900

1. IN CRITICIZING BLAND EC-9 COMMUNIQUE ON MID-EAST
(REFTEL, PARA 2), OCT. 16 SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG GAVE VOICE
TO FRUSTRATION FELT BY FONOFF OFFICIALS DESIRING COMMON
EUROPEAN POSITION ON IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS
SUCH AS MID-EAST. SUEDEDEUTSCHE EDITORIAL READS AS
FOLLOWS.

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2. BEGIN TEXT: FONMIN SCHEEL SAYS THAT BONN'S VOICE CAN WIELD WEIGHT IN THE MIDDLE-EAST CONFLICT ONLY IN THE CONCERT OF THE NINE. THEREFORE, THE QUESTION IS OBVIOUS: WHAT WEIGHT DOES THE EC WIELD IN THIS CONTROVERSY? THE ANSWER IS: NONE. THIS IS BOUND TO BE SHOCKING, NOT ONLY BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY CLAIMS WORLD-POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT TRIES TO PRESENT THIS CLAIM WITH ONE VOICE, BUT RATHER BECAUSE A CHANCE IS BEING LOST HERE FOR BRINGING THE EC'S WEIGHT TO BEAR IN INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SUPERPOWERS. INSTEAD OF MEDIATING IN THE CONFLICT AT THEIR DOORSTEP, AS SOME MIDDLE-EAST STATES EXPECT OF THEM, THE EUROPEANS ARE DISUNITED AND HELPLESS.

3. THE COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED BY THE NINE CANNOT GLOSS OVER THIS FACT. IT IS AN APPEAL FULL OF PLATITUDES, SUCH AS THE DEMAND FOR A CEASE-FIRE WHICH WOULD "OPEN THE ROAD TO REAL NEGOTIATIONS IN AN APPROPRIATE FRAMEWORK." THE BASIS FOR THIS IS TO BE UN RES. 242 OF 1967. BUT FOLLOWING A MOTION OF THE NETHERLANDS, THE NINE REFRAINED FROM CHARGING THEIR SECURITY-COUNCIL MEMBERS, FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN, WITH REPRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN VIEWPOINT. WHY? JUST AS EARLIER AT THE MUNICH EC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN 1970, FRANCE INTERPRETS THE RESOLUTION DIFFERENTLY FROM THE OTHERS, NAMELY, IN FAVOR OF THE ARABS. INSTEAD OF WITHDRAWING FROM "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES", FRANCE WOULD HAVE THE ISRAELIS WITHDRAW FROM "THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES," MEANING ALL OF THEM.

4. HENCE, IT CANNOT BE SURPRISING THAT ISRAEL REJECTS THE FRENCH AS MEDIATORS, PARTICULARLY SINCE PARIS HAS BEEN SUPPLYING ONLY THE ARABS WITH WEAPONS SINCE 1967. BUT GREAT BRITAIN, TOO, IS NOT NEUTRAL, AS ITS ARMS EMBARGO PRIMARILY AFFECTS ISRAEL. BOTH (PARIS AND LONDON) LET THEIR POLICIES BE GUIDED BY ECONOMIC AND OIL INTERESTS. IF ONE, LIKE THE EC, CANNOT RELY ON THE SUPERIORITY OF ONE'S WEAPONS, THEN ONE MUST STAY NEUTRAL SO AS TO CREDIBLY APPEAR AS MEDIATOR--AS DIFFICULT AS THIS IS. END TEXT.

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5. IN OCT 14 TV INTERVIEW, COMMENTING ON EC-9 APPROACH TO MID-EAST, CHANCELLOR BRANDT EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT, FOLLOWING END OF PRESENT MID-EAST HOSTILITIES, "EUROPEAN HELP WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED WILL BE GIVEN TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE ON A COMMON BASIS."
HILLENBRAND

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